



ASSEMBLY HALL
THEATRE



Press Release
20 September 2011

New Outdoor Ice Rink for Royal Tunbridge Wells



'Royal Tunbridge Wells at Christmas'

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is delighted to announce details of the 2011 Royal Tunbridge Wells Ice Rink.

The new ice rink will be in the picturesque Calverley Grounds this Christmas.

The real ice rink, supplied & managed by Cousins Entertainment Ltd, promises to be an essential winter experience and great fun for all ages and abilities and will include parent and toddler sessions, entertainment in the form of themed nights, sponsors' evenings and spot prizes for the best skater and the best 'Bambi' on the ice.

Robin Cousins, former Olympic skating champion and head judge on Dancing on Ice, will be making a guest appearance at today's launch event being held at the Hotel Du Vin in Royal Tunbridge Wells.

Robin Cousins said ***“Cousins Entertainment is very happy to be asked to put a real ice rink into the lovely Calverley Grounds. I’m sure it will be very popular and the community will enjoy having an ice rink in the heart of the town over the Christmas period.”***

Everyone is invited to enjoy the festive celebrations with a twirl on the new outdoor rink with families and friends, or, for those not skating simply relax and enjoy the atmosphere in the beautifully lit Calverley Grounds.

The ice rink will be open from Saturday 26 November (excluding Christmas day) until Monday 2 January, with a special launch event on Friday 25 November. The cost for one hour’s skating, including hire of skating boots, will be from £7 for children and £9 for adults. The rink will be open from 9.30am till 9.30pm, last session will be at 8.30pm excluding Christmas Eve. Booking for peak times is essential – Thursday and Friday evenings and all day Saturday and Sunday.

Family tickets, school and groups rates (15+) are available; Go! Card holders will enjoy concessionary rates. For those smitten with the skating bug there will even be a loyalty card enabling skaters to enjoy one free session for every six paid skates.

For full details on ticket prices, session times and to make an advance booking visit www.tunbridgewellsatchristmas.com (tickets can be booked online from 20 September). From Monday 24 October bookings can also be made via the Box Office - 01892 530613/532072 or in person at the Assembly Hall Theatre Box Office.

Cllr Mrs Catherine Mayhew, Tourism, Leisure and Economic Development Portfolio Holder expressed her enthusiasm for the idea and hoped that it would encourage more people to visit the town and come shopping over the festive period.

The Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Ice Rink project is in partnership with, AXA PPP, Westfield Royal Victoria Place, Hoopers, Heart FM and the Kent & Sussex Courier.

For press enquiries including image requests and registering your interest in the launch event at the ice rink on Friday 25 November 2011, please contact Caroline Edmunds at Pennington PR on 01892 616647 e-mail caroline@penningtonpr.com

Notes to Editors

Q. How large is the ice rink?

A. 20m x 20m with additional spacious marquee for skate change

Q. How many people can skate on the ice-rink in a session?

A. Maximum capacity on the ice is 130 skaters

Q. Will the ice rink surface be synthetic or real?

A. Real ice

Q. How long will it take to set the ice rink in place?

A. The set up will take a week to ten days in order to fully set up and ensure that the ice is frozen

Q. Can I just turn up and skate?

A. Yes but it is advisable to book at peak times – Thursday and Friday evenings and all day Saturday and Sunday

Q. How do I book tickets?

A. Tickets can be booked online from 20 September at www.tunbridgewellsatchristmas.com. From 24 October tickets can also be booked through the Assembly Hall Theatre Box Office on 01892 530613 or in person at the Box Office.

Q. How long is a session?

A. Ice skating sessions last for 1 hour – this includes time to fit your skates in the covered skate hire and changing area so expect to have approximately 50 minutes on the ice.

Q. Are there any discounts for a 2nd visit over the festive period?

A. For those smitten with the skating bug there will be a loyalty card – after 6 sessions you will get one free session.

Q. Do you have a special rate for schools?

A. Yes, for school groups less than 50 - £4.50 per pupil (adults are free) and over 50+ in a group £3.95 per pupil (adults are free).

Q. Can wheelchair users access the ice rink?

A. Yes – wheelchairs users are welcome to enjoy the ice rink. Full details can be found at www.tunbridgewellsatchristmas.com

Q. What food and drink options are there?

A. Calverley cafe will be open all day when the ice rink is open together with other concessions.